punjabtimeslive

Jalandhar Saturday - 16 April - 2022

DAILY Punjab Times

Published from India & USA

Leading English & Punjabi daily

Editor : Baljit Singh Brar C.E.O. Rupinder Kaur Per Copy ₹3

RNI REGD NO : PUNENG/2012/47439 Volume : 10, Issue : 211 www.dailypunjabtimes.com livepunjabtimes@gmail.com

3 BJP copying Delhi model of governance in Himachal: Arvind Kejriwal

## Russia Warns Sweden, Finland Of Consequences If They Join NATO

**Punjab Times News**
**Moscow, April 15**

Russia's foreign ministry on Friday warned of unspecified "consequences" should Finland and Sweden join the US-led NATO defence alliance, after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

Moscow's military actions in Ukraine have sparked a dramatic U-turn in public and political opinion in both Finland and Sweden over long-held policies of military non-alignment.

Finland said this week it will decide whether to apply for NATO membership within weeks, and Sweden is also discussing joining the alliance.

"The choice is up to the authorities of Sweden and Finland. But they should understand the consequences of such a step for our bilateral relations and for the architecture of European security as a whole," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

# Russia strikes Kyiv missile factory after its key ship sinks in Black Sea

PunjabTimes Headline
Punjab Times News

**Ekamjit Singh Brar**
**Kyiv, April 15**

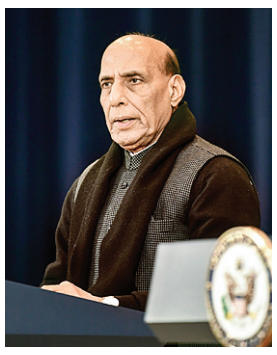
The flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet has sunk after what Kyiv said was a Ukrainian missile strike, dealing one of the heaviest blows yet to Moscow's war effort and providing a powerful symbol of Kyiv's resistance against a better-armed foe.

Kyiv says it hit the cruiser Moskva with missiles fired from the coast. Russia said the ship sank while being towed in stormy seas after a fire caused by an explosion of ammunition. Moscow said more than 500 sailors had been evacuated. There was no independent confirmation of the fate of the crew. Although Russia did not confirm that Ukrainian missiles had hit the ship, early on Friday it struck what it described as a factory in Kyiv that made and repaired anti-ship missiles, in apparent retaliation. The Moskva was by far Russia's largest vessel in the Black Sea fleet, equipped with guided missiles to shoot down planes and attack the shore, and radar to provide air defence cover for the fleet. Hours before Kyiv said it had struck the ship, it released a postage stamp with a picture of a soldier making an obscene gesture towards it, commemorating the war's first day when the ship ordered Ukrainian defenders to surrender an island outpost, and they radioed back "Russian warship, go fuck yourself". President Volodymyr Zelenskiy paid homage to "those who showed that Russian ships can go -- only down to the bottom".Russia has used its naval power to blockade Ukrainian ports and threaten a potential amphibious landing along the coast. Without its flagship, its ability to menace Ukraine from the sea could be crippled.

# If harmed, India won't spare anyone: Rajnath Singh's message to China

**Punjab Times News**
**Washington, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special



In a strong message to China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that if harmed, India will not spare anyone, as he asserted that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as a powerful country and is headed to be among the top three economies of the world.

Singh, in his address to the Indian-American community in San Francisco, also sent a subtle message to the US that New Delhi does not believe in a diplomacy of "zero-sum game" and its relationship with one country cannot be at the expense of the other. The defence minister was here to attend the India US 2+2 ministerial in Washington DC. Thereafter, he travelled to Hawaii for meetings at IndoPACOM headquarters and then to San Francisco.

At a reception hosted in his honour by the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, the Defence Minister told the select gathering about the valour shown by Indian soldiers on the border with China.

"I cannot say openly what they (Indian soldiers) did and what decisions we (the government) took. But I can definitely say that a message has gone (to China) that India will not spare anyone, if India is harmed. (Bharat ko agar koi chherega to Bharat chhorega nahi," he said.

The Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

# Russia begins delivery of second regiment of S-400 missile system to India

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi, April 15**

Pressure from the US notwithstanding, Russia has started delivery of the second regiment of S-400 air-defence missile system to India. The first regiment was raised in December last year and is stationed at an Indian Air Force base in Punjab, duly tasked to tackle airborne threats from Pakistan and China. In all, five such missile systems are on order under a $5-billion deal signed in October 2018.

"The Russian supplies of the S400, despite the conflict in Ukraine, have not been hindered and are on as per schedule," a senior functionary told The Tribune.

By end of this month, the delivery of the critical system will be completed and thereafter it will be deployed, expectedly by June. The location of the base where the systems will be deployed is not known but is estimated to be in the north-east.

Each S-400 system has eight vehicle-mounted launchers. Each launcher has four tubes allowing the commander on ground to launch four missiles from each launcher. The ground-based radar, monitoring station of the system, power systems and other systems are all transported on vehicles. An S-400 missile can take down a hostile aircraft, missile or a UAV at a range between 40 km and 400 km. Each system has its own radar and can track over hundred targets at a distance of 600 km. This allows controllers on ground to choose which target poses a greater threat and needs to be shot down. During the stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) China had deployed the S-300, a version lower than S-400, facing Eastern Ladakh.

# PM Modi Discusses Ukraine, South China Sea With Top Vietnam Leader

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with general secretary of the Communist party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong and exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in the South China Sea. In their telephonic conversation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction over the rapid pace of wide-ranging cooperation under the India -Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which was established during Modi's visit to Vietnam in 2016, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. They complimented each other on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. "Spoke with General Secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam H. E. Nguyen Phu Trong today. We exchanged views on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues and agreed to promote closer cooperation in our economic, trade and defence engagement," PM Modi said in a tweet. PM Modi also reiterated Vietnam's importance as an important pillar of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision, and sought to enhance the scope of the bilateral relationship, besides working for expeditious progress on existing initiatives. The prime minister also requested for greater facilitation of market access for India's pharma and agri-products in Vietnam, the PMO statement said. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the historical and civilisation links between the two countries and expressed his happiness on India's involvement in restoration of Cham monuments in Vietnam.

## 6 killed in vehicle-truck collision in Jodhpur

**Punjab Times News**
**Jodhpur, April 15**

Six people, including two women and a child, died and three others were injured when a vehicle carrying them rammed into a truck in the district, police said on Friday. The victims were on their way to Nagana temple near Kalyanpura in Barmer district, police said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has expressed grief over the incident. In his tweet, he termed the incident unfortunate and expressed his condolences for the deceased. According to the police, the vehicle rammed into the truck from behind near Bilara in Jodhpur at 1 am on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

# Free Power, 50% Bus Fare Discount For Women: CM's Mega Announcements On Himachal Day

**Punjab Times News**
**Shimla, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

With an eye on the assembly elections later this year, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday announced several poll sops on the occasion of the 75th Himachal Day at the state-level function held at Chamba. Chief Minister announced 50 per cent discount on travelling in HRTC buses for women, which would cost the exchequer Rs 60 crore. He announced that all power consumers upto 125 units would get zero bill from July 1, thus benefitting 11.5 lakh consumers, who would get a benefit of about Rs 250 crores. He also announced that no water bill would be charged from all the families living in rural areas, thus extending a benefit of Rs 30 crore to them. The Chief Minister also announced Rs 5 crore for expediting work on Holiuttarala road and mini secretariat at Chamba.

He announced beautification and improvement at Chamba town, besides taking steps to solve its traffic problem.

Thakur said that the state also faced hard times due to Corona pandemic, but with the wholehearted support of the people, the state was able to control the situation and also simultaneously maintained the pace of development. "All this has been possible due to the support of the Central government as PM Modi has a special attachment towards Himachal Pradesh," said Thakur. While felicitating the people of the state, Chief Minister paid his respect to former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for granting industrial package to the state during his tenure as Prime Minister of the country.

# Punjab anti-gangster task force nabs 2 gangsters from Haryana, Uttarakhand in Bhinda murder case

**Baljit Singh Brar**
**Chandigarh, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

A week after the Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force was set up, it arrested two gangsters from neighbouring Uttarakhand and Haryana. One of them is a former student union leader Harbir Singh Dhindsa, who is the main accused behind kabaddi player Dharminder Singh Bhinda's murder near Punjabi University in Patiala on April 5.

Led by additional director general of police (ADGP) Parmod Bhan, the task force assigned deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Bikram Singh Brar, who has arrested and killed many gangsters, to nab Harbir and the other gangsters involved in the murder. Harbir is a close aide of gangster Lawence Bishnoi. The task force, which was working on various leads, arrested Harbir from Dehradun, while the other accused, identified as Fauji, was caught in Haryana. Bhinda was shot dead outside the university when he was mediating in a clash between two groups.

Five days after the murder, seven accused, including four directly involved in the crime, were arrested. They were identified as Navi Sharma, 21, Varinder Singh, 22, both from Bathoi village; Pritpal Singh, 22, of Sanour and Bahadur Singh, 23, of Gharacho village in Sangrur district.

The other three accused were identified as Tarsem Lal, 30, of Saneta village in Mohali, Satwinder Singh, 23, of Banur and Gurlal Singh, 24, of Patiala, who provided shelter to the main accused.

Besides Harbir, the other main accused named in the case are Harman Singh, Tejinder Singh and Yoginder Bonny. Police have brought him to Patiala from Dehradun and he will be presented before a court on Friday evening.

# Making efforts to fill up vacancies, improve judicial infrastructure: CJI N V Ramana

**Punjab Times New**
**Hyderabad, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana on Friday said he is making efforts to fill up vacancies in the judiciary and to improve judicial infrastructure in the country, besides addressing issues relating to security of judges and others.

Our judiciary is overburdened, he said, while speaking after inaugurating the two-day Telangana State Judicial Officers Conference here. The CJI said he has taken up filling up vacancies and improving the infrastructure of the judiciary soon after taking over.

"The reason is access to justice is possible only when we provide sufficient number of courts as well as infrastructure," he said. Justice Ramana said he wanted to see that there are no pending vacancies either in the high courts, Supreme Court or the district judiciary.

He also sought to see that the judicial system is strengthened. Chief Justice Ramana added judicial infrastructure was found to be inadequate in different parts of the country. In the case of Telangana, he had cleared the pending file for increasing the number of judges from 24 to 42 without delay, he said.He requested the judicial officers to create a congenial environment for the litigants and to always remember the human aspects of the dispute.

"Law cannot be far from equity. It is important to project the human face of the judiciary whenever you have scope for invoking your discretion," he said.

The judicial officers must sensitize themselves to different vulnerabilities of the parties, including minors, women and persons with disabilities who may have different requirements, and treat everyone with respect, he said. Highlighting the significant role played by the judicial officers in the Constitutional scheme of things, he said the officers should apply their mind independently on the materials presented before them.

PunjabTimes Transparent Journalism

# Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill 2021

The Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill, 2021 introduces a regulatory framework for 'invasive alien species' in the Indian environmental legislative regime. However, despite being a well-intended step, the scope of the provision remains narrow and inadequate for managing the menace of invasive species in the Indian ecology.

In its current form, the restrictive understanding of the word 'alien' in the Bill excludes invasive native species from its purview. This article argues that this oversight might make it difficult to holistically manage invasive species in the country. In doing so, it first illustrates why invasive species are problematic to begin with and gives an overview of the existing mechanisms to address the issue.

It is estimated that invasive species are a pronounced threat to biological diversity in 7 out of 10 biogeographic zones in India and more than 90% of forests have the prevalence of highly invasive species. Further, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has identified 170 invasive species in India but cautions that, in absence of adequate information, the list may not be exhaustive. ?The primary obligation of the government to manage invasive species can be traced to two sources: (i) Article 48A of the Constitution which requires the state to endeavour to protect and improve the environment, and; (ii) the international Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the adjoining Aichi Targets. Target 9 of the Aichi Target specifically urges member states to control or eradicate invasive alien species by 2020. In response to the latter, the government launched the National Biodiversity Action Plan in 2008 and set out the National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) 2015, which correspond to the Aichi Targets. Under Target 4 of NBTs, the aim was to develop management strategies for invasive species and integrate them with existing protected areas and wetland management plants.

The existing legislative framework does not directly address the issue of invasive species. However, piecemeal regulation exists in the form of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order 2003 which mandates that any import of plants or seeds into the country should be inspected for the potential risk of pests. The Order has been issued under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 which is aimed at preventing introduction of pests which may be destructive to crops. Against this background, it can be understood why the proposal for regulating invasive alien species under the WPA Bill is a welcome step. However, the problem lies in the chosen definition of the term invasive alien species. The Bill defines invasive alien as a species of animal or plant which is not native to India and whose introduction or spread may threaten or adversely impact wildlife or its habitat. On comparing this with the definition provided under CBD, the narrow scope of the proposed amendment becomes clear.While CBD takes an ecological approach and defines an 'alien species' in the context of its natural location, the definition under the Bill understands the term 'alien' in a geopolitical context, that is, a species that is not native to India. As a result, species which are native to India, but are still invasive when introduced to a new habitat within the country, remain outside the purview of regulation.For example, although Katsagon (Haplophragmaadenophyllum) is native to Eastern India, on being introduced to other states under afforestation campaigns, it has become invasive. Similarly, the NBA itself has recognisedthat the introduction of several protected native species including Asian Elephant, Barking Deer and Spotted deer from mainland India to Andaman and Nicobar islands has posed a threat to the native flora and fauna and are considered invasive species in the island. It must be noted that the Asian Elephant is also classified as 'Endangered' according to IUCN (International Union for Conservation on Nature) red list in their native range, but also considered invasive by the NBA. However, the Bill fails to acknowledge the impacts of such native invasive species.

In order to actually take a meaningful step towards meeting the Aichi and National Biodiversity Targets, it is imperative that future legislations on the subject are aligned with international standards and mindful of the regional ecological requirements. Vidhi, in its comments to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on the WPA Bill, has suggested changes for making the proposed regulatory framework more comprehensive. As is evident from the above discussion, there is an imminent need to expand the definition of invasive alien species to include invasive native species. Additionally, an expert advisory committee must be constituted to assist the Central government in the identifying and prioritisation of invasive alien species such that targeted strategies can be developed for managing them. India is already falling behind its commitments under the Aichi Targets. Concerted efforts are needed to contain the damage from IAS which has escaped the attention it demands. Adopting the correct definition is the most basic and significant step to propel the conversation on the subject in the right direction.

**TARIKA JAIN**

## Bengali Actor Susovan Sonu Roy's first Tv serial was Aakash Aath channel 'Anandamoyee Maa'

pt PunjabTimes Special

Bengali Actor Susovan Sonu Roy's first serial was Aakash Aath channel serial Anandamoyee Maa. It was a mythological tv series and there he played a role of vaisnav bhakta, it was his debut in tv industry and before he don't know about the Acting and it was directed by late. Debidas Bhattacharya . After that he acted in star jalsha channel's serial "Mohor" and through Mohor he got another project in Star Jalsha channel's "Korapakhi" which is same Production house projects , He played negative role in that particular serial for several months . And after that he is also Acted in Zee Bangla channel's serial "Jamuna Dhaki" in this serial he played a role of neighbour . After that again acted in Star Jalsha channel's serial named "Titli" in this serial he played a vital role also . And people start knowing him as an Actor .

**- PunjabTimes bureau report**

**PUNJAB TIMES (Daily English)**
RNI REGD NO : PUNENG/2012/47439
Vol- 10, Issue - 211, 16 April 2022
Owner, Printer, Publisher and Editor : Baljit Singh Brar
Printed at Aggarwal Printers, 269 Transport Nagar, Jalandhar
Place of Publication : 503, GTB Nagar,
Jalandhar City-144 003 (Pb) India
Contact No : 0181-246 3100, 464 0023
Managing Diriector : Ekamjit Singh
Email : livepunjabtimes@gmail.com

pt PunjabTimes Op-ed

**Kolli N Rao**
Senior Advisor, IRICBS

# Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

# Every cloud has a silver lining

Governments can use crop insurance to stabilize farm income over time, assist farmers when agriculture production is adversely impacted by a catastrophe, and improve farmers' creditworthiness. In addition, government-subsidized crop insurance programmes smooth government budgets across years by subsidizing premiums up front, leaving claims to insurers.

Natural disasters such as droughts and floods pose a great threat to agriculture in India, and financial arrangements (such as crop insurance) can play a key role in relieving fiscal pressure on government and farmers. Catastrophic events cause distress to many farmers. Without crop insurance, such distressful events could easily lead to income loss, inability to repay loans, and in the most extreme of cases, farmer suicide.

Crop insurance in India has evolved to become more comprehensive and widespread since the 1970s, when it covered only select areas and crops. In consultation with stakeholders, government decides how to design the most comprehensive and effective program, addressing issues along the way.

Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana (PMFBY) replaced existing claim subsidy-based models in 2016. PMFBY is one of a number of government initiatives that provide farmers with some level of security when faced with risky and uncertain situations.

Despite billions in premium subsidies every year globally, stakeholders are still unhappy. There is no perfect crop insurance scheme, and PMFBY is no exception. The criticism is true to some extent, but not everything. There is an important point to note, the government is taking feedback regularly and making changes as needed in key areas of dissatisfaction. It's a continuous process. Although some states and insurers have pulled out of the scheme, still, its success is far from ordinary.

Here are some salient features and achievements that will help readers understand success:

Protection value: In the pre-PMFBY era, the average sum insured per hectare was Rs 16,388, which increased to Rs 44,829 by 2020-21, providing adequate insurance coverage.

National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) - a centralized IT platform is developed linking the Central Government with all States and UTs, all participating Insurance Companies, 170,000 bank branches, and a network of 44,000 Common Service Centers (CSC) to ensure ease of enrolment of non-loanee farmers, better administration and coordination amongst all stakeholders. As compared to the pre-PMFBY period, when farmers had to line up at bank branches to enrol, often requiring multiple visits, this is a huge convenience.

Crop yield estimation utilizes technology both to audit the results of crop cutting experiments (CCEs) with CCEApp, and to reduce the number of CCEs by using smart sampling techniques.

Farmer's Direct Credit: PMFBY remits claims directly to farmer's bank accounts. On average over 1/3rdof all insured farmers receive compensation, a large operation managed effectively, allowing farmers to receive compensation quickly. This also eliminates malpractice.

Overall Claim Ratio: The claim ratio for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20 was 88.6%, by no means a modest figure. Including the additional cost of insurers and reinsurers, the industry has almost a 100% combined ratio. Gross claim ratio of 88.6% translates to 540% on farmers' share of premium. Compensation for Key events: Since 2016, the weather has adversely affected nearly every state at least once, and farmers received decent compensation during these events. The scheme's ability to protect farmers from extremely adverse weather events in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, etc. shows its worth. Timely payment for losses: The key takeaway of insurance is timely payment. PMFBY included guidelines for the timely processing and settlement of claims (subject to subsidy) through penalties for delays. Although not perfect, it improved timeliness.

Index 'plus' Insurance: PMFBY combines yield index and indemnity insurance. Yield index captures widespread calamities, while individual farm loss assessments cover localized calamities. PMFBY has captured and handled losses due to sporadic events over the past few years. Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh are testaments to the localized losses recovered through PMFBY.

It doesn't mean all is well with PMFBY. In spite of the Government of India taking feedback and implementing changes as necessary, some states remain concerned about (i) high premium rates for certain crops and (ii) a premium subsidy cap on the Central Government's share that adds to the financial burden of the state. Perception of high premiums has led some states to demand a portion of premium refund during normal crop years.

There may be a solution to the above concerns by (i) changing the threshold yield calculation method (ii) giving greater weight to technology-based yields and (iii) establishing a mechanism for a fair profit sharing arrangement between states and insurers.

Threshold yield calculation is based on average yield, which is currently based on the last seven years after eliminating two of the lowest yields. A more balanced calculation can be achieved by excluding one highest yield and one lowest yield (Olympic average). According to this calculation applied to major Kharif crops in Gujarat, premium rates are dropping by about 20 percent.

The final yield is determined currently only by manual crop cutting experiments. It's time to factor in technology-derived yields when calculating final yields - starting with a lower weightage (e.g., 20%), and gradually increasing as experience grows. The USA and South Korea provide examples that illustrate how profits/losses are shared across a range of loss ratios. Using this template, we can maintain state and insurer ownership over a wider range of loss ratios. For example, if the loss ratio is below 50%, the surplus could be split between the state and insurer with a larger share going to the state, which gradually shifts to the insurer as the loss ratio rises reducing the margin. The state may take on more losses when losses are high (for example, > 150%), while insurers can take on more losses when the loss ratio drops. PMFBY has demonstrated some promising results, and with a few more improvements, it could become an important tool for managing crop failures and climate risks.

**- PIB feature**

pt PunjabTimes View Point

**F.S. Aijazuddin**
writer

# Political lobotomy

THOSE whom the gods wish to punish, they first make cricketers and then prime ministers. Both Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan have played cricket and politics. They have won and lost. They now share the unenviable distinction of having been ousted from the same perilous post, the prime ministership of Pakistan — Nawaz Sharif thrice (in 1993, 1999, and in 2017) and Imran Khan most recently on April 10, 2022.

Each owed his position in part to the bullet box. Each was forced out when he dared to exercise his constitutional authority beyond limits defined by others. Nawaz Sharif spent years of exile in Saudi Arabia and in London. Throughout, he remained head of the PML-N — the 'king across the waters' — a supremacy assured by his loyal Bharat-like brother Shehbaz and indefatigable daughter Maryam who stayed behind. Imran Khan's children live in London but he is unlikely to join them. Such a flight, however innocuous, would be misconstrued by his detractors. Lady Luck has deserted him. He plans to stay in Banigala, denied power but within tantalising reach of it.

Nawaz Sharif is 72 years old, Imran Khan three years younger. Is it too early to write their epitaphs? What does the future hold for them?

For Nawaz Sharif, the charms of being a prime minister for a fourth term have palled. For him, four is one too many. He will return to Pakistan to satisfy his self-esteem and to occupy the nation's presidency. By dissolving the National Assembly with unseemly haste, Dr Alvi compromised himself. He will need to be extracted, to vacate Aiwan-i-Sadar for Nawaz Sharif.

Some may recall that in December 1997, following the resignation of president Farooq A. Leghari, a plan had been prepared for Nawaz Sharif (then prime minister) to become president (the lethal Article 58 (2) b was still in force), and for Shehbaz Sharif (then chief minister, Punjab) to move to Islamabad to be prime minister. Punjab would be entrusted to a loyal vassal. Their canny father Mian Muhammad Sharif disagreed. What use is Islamabad if you lose Punjab? He told his sons to stay put, and bundled the late unlamented Rafiq Tarar into the presidency.

pt PunjabTimes

For Nawaz Sharif, the pomp and ceremony attached to the presidency would be one glittering incentive. The greater would be exemption from any prosecution while in office. For Shehbaz Sharif, the prime ministership is the reward for years of laborious apprenticeship. His first task will be to repair the fences Imran Khan had created between Islamabad and the provinces. His second will be to restart the rusted machinery of governance. He enjoys the confidence of the business community, foreign lenders and development agencies, and especially the Chinese whose CPEC lugged under Imran Khan. His third will be to distribute vacuous titles to his coalition partners. They will soon learn that, like Imran Khan, Shehbaz Sharif hunts best alone. And what of the others? At 33, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has a lifetime ahead of him. His callow years are behind him. He demonstrated his newly honed political skills in his final speech in the National Assembly, where he responded to Shah Mahmood Qureshi's jibe about the amounts PTI MNAs had been offered to become turncoats. His rapier retort asked SMQ how much he had received for joining the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) in 1986, the Pakistan People's Party in 1993, and the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf in 2011. In the new government, Bilawal will definitely be offered foreign affairs. It is an area in which his mother and grandfather Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made their reputations. Ironi-cally, Imran Khan borrowed Z.A. Bhutto's 'independent' foreign policy as a crutch to support his own recent and fatal anti-US diatribes.

Of the other portfolios, the most significant will be finance and commerce. The treasury is bankrupt and the trade deficit is, like the Titanic, tilting dangerously. No one on the new filled treasury benches seems equipped to resuscitate our gasping economy. Foreseeably, the economy will continue to stumble from one crisis into a deeper one. The dramatic exit of the PTI from the National Assembly and the resignations of its MNAs (some noisily, others reluctantly) has serious constitutional ramifications. A simple majority of 174 out of 372 members may be enough to vote Imran Khan out and Shehbaz Sharif in. It is not sufficient for day-to-day unchallengeable legislative governance.

With PTI's exodus, 16.9 million Pakistanis who voted for it in the 2018 general election have no voice left within parliament. Their leader exhorts them to vent their anger instead in the streets. Pakistan is in a state of shock: its parliament has been lobotomised. That is a dangerous situation. No nation with a nuclear arsenal can be trusted to function with only half a brain.

pt PunjabTimes Issues

# Letter to Vice Chancellor GNDU

# Ineligible to be Reader, Professor and Vice Chancellor

Guru Nanak Dev University Teachers Association (GNDUTA) which is a constitutional body of Teachers of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. The association has submitted a complaint to the Hon'ble Governor and Chief Minister of Punjab stating that without possessing the requisite qualifications as prescribed by the UGC for Reader (Health Education) in the department of Physical Education, and Professor in Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy, Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu got himself appointed as a reader and further as a professor. The condition of Ph.D. is/was a part of essential qualifications for becoming Reader, Professor and even Principal of a College, but Sh Sandhu does not have Ph. D. degree but still appointed as a Vice Chancellor of the Prestigious University of the State. By virtue of his illegal appointments as reader and professor, his appointment as Vice Chancellor is also illegal. The details about his qualifications and appointment as Reader, Professor and Vice Chancellor and the eligibility conditions for these positions as laid down by UGC, are as follows:

Jaspal Singh Sandhu completed his MBBS degree in 1982, MS (Ortho) degree from Government Medical College, Amritsar and a Diploma in Sports Medicine from Punjabi University, Patiala. He has also served as Medical Officer in Punjab Civil Medical Services–I for few years.

On 9-6-1992, the interview for two posts of lecturers in the department of Physical Education, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, was held and Sh Jaspal Singh was one of the candidates but was not selected. The proceedings of the said selection committee were approved by the syndicate meeting held on 29-6-1992.

The Syndicate in the same meeting held on 29-06-1992, resolved to convert the post of lecturer part-time (Where such posts did not exist, these non-budgeted temporary posts were created to meet the short-term requirements of teaching faculty) into the post of reader (Health Education) and also approved the same in the university budget. The Syndicate also approved the eligibility criteria for the said post, which read as follows:

Post graduate in Physiology or Medicine or Orthopedics or Anatomy as per UGC norms.

Diploma in Sports Medicine

Proficiency in teaching Anatomy/Exercise Physiology/ Sports Medicine and Sports traumatology to Post Graduate Classes and supervising research.

3 years teaching or 3 years research experience

The above said eligibility criteria for the post of 'Reader' was tailored to match with the qualifications of Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu, which was in blatant violation of the UGC guidelines 1991. The UGC Regulations, 1991, regarding Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers in Universities and Colleges (To be Published in the Gazette of India on 5th Oct. 1991), Part III Section 4, No.F.1-11/87(CPP) dated 19th Sept. 1991", states the qualification for 'Reader' (Open Selection) as follows:

"Good academic record with a doctoral (Ph. D.) degree or equivalent published work. Candidates from outside the university system in addition shall also possess at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade at the Master's degree level. OR Eight years experience of teaching and/or research including upto 3 years for research degrees and has made some mark in the areas of scholarship as evidenced by quality or publications, contribution to educational renovation, design of new courses and curricula". The interview for the said post of reader was held on 06-02-1994 and Jaspal Singh Sandhu was selected as a Reader. It is pertinent to note that immediately after his selection he was given appointment letter and was allowed to join without the approval of the Syndicate. Whereas, the proceedings of the selection committee were approved after 10 months by the Syndicate held on 16.12.1994.

Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu never qualified for the post of professor as he was neither having post-graduation in sports medicine nor in physiotherapy and also didn't have Ph.D. degree, which were essential qualifications for the said post. UGC in its notification no. F.3-1.94(PS) dated 24 December, 1998, on "Revision of pay scales, minimum qualification for appointment of teachers in universities, colleges & other measures for the maintenance of standards, 1998', has specified qualifications for the direct appointment of professor, as follows. "An eminent scholar with published work of high quality, actively engaged in research, with 10 years of experience in postgraduate teaching, and/or experience in research at the university/national level of institutions, including experience of guiding research at doctoral level OR an outstanding scholar with established reputation who has made significant contribution to knowledge. In exceptional cases, the teachers with 15 years of UG teaching/research experience could also be considered". However, cataclysm of the system was that Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu was made Professor in 'Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy' in open selection and the selection was approved in the meeting of the Syndicate held on 11-08-2000. In the proceedings of the meeting, it is mentioned that proceedings of the selection committees are given as annexures, but in an attempt to cover up this academic fraud, the documentary evidences of all the selection committees, were not annexed with the proceeding of the said meeting.

As per the Clause 7.3 of UGC REGULATIONS ON MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS AND OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND MEASURES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, 2010, the qualifications for the position of Vice Chancellor are as follows.

"Persons of the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment are to be appointed as Vice-Chancellors. The Vice-Chancellor to be appointed should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years of experience as Professor in a University system or ten years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organization". Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu joined as Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar on 16-8-2017 for a term of three years which expired on 15-8-2020, and was given an extension for another term of 3 years w.e.f. from 16-8-2020 till 15-8-2023.

By virtue of his position as a Vice Chancellor, he has been made member of various search committees constituted for the selection of the Vice Chancellors of various state universities of Punjab, and currently holds additional charge of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur State University of Law and also got appointed as the chairman of the committee constituted by the then Chief Minister Captain Amrinder Singh to suggest measures for the improvement of higher education in the state of Punjab. Teachers' association has prayed to Hon'ble Governor and Chief Minister that as it is the rarest of rare case of academic fraud, hence Sh Jaspal Singh Sandhu should be removed from the post of Vice Chancellor with immediate effect and a judicial inquiry by an Hon'ble judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, be instituted and accordingly legal action be initiated against him.

**Prof. Lakhwinder Singh President**
**Prof. NPS Saini**
**Secretary**

# PM dedicates to the nation K. K. Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation K. K. Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj, Gujarat today via video conferencing. The hospital has been built by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, Bhuj. Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel was among those present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister appreciated that leaving the devastation caused by the earthquake behind, the people of Bhuj and Kutch are now writing a new destiny for this region with their hard work. "Today many modern medical services exist in this area.In this series, Bhuj is getting a modern, super specialty hospital today", the Prime Minister said.

This hospital is the first charitable super speciality hospital of the region which will act as guarantee of quality medical treatment for people of Kutch along with lakhs of soldiers, par military personnel and traders, the Prime Minister informed. The Prime Minister elaborated that better health facilities are not limited only to the treatment of disease, they also encourage social justice. "When cheap and best treatment is available to the poor, his faith in the system is strengthened. If they get freedom from the worry of the cost of treatment, they work hard to get out of poverty with more determination", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister explained that in past years, all the schemes of the health sector have been implemented with this thought behind them.

Ayushman Bharat scheme has been instrumental in saving lakhs of crore rupees every year in the treatment of poor and middle class families along withJanaushadhi Yojana. Health and Wellness centres and campaigns such as the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Scheme are helping to make treatment accessible to all.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission is expanding the facilities for the patients. Modern and critical healthcare infrastructure has been developed through the Ayushman Health Infrastructure Mission in the district andbeing taken up to the block level. Hospital are being constructed in every district. Similarly, AIIMS are being established.

# Garlands For BJP Workers Jailed For Protest At Arvind Kejriwal Home

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Praising them as "young revolutionaries", the Delhi BJP garlanded and welcomed its eight Yuva Morcha workers who were let out on bail for protesting and indulging in vandalism outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house.

They were arrested on March 31.

"Eight workers of BJP Yuva Morcha, who were jailed while protesting against anti-Hindu Kejriwal, got bail by the court after 14 days. Welcoming these young revolutionaries in the state office today. Each of our workers will always fight against the anti-Hindu forces," Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta tweeted Thursday along with the photos. The move attracted a swift response from the Aam Aadmi Party, saying it sent a message to its workers all over the country that they too will be felicitated if they indulge in "hooliganism and vandalism".

"The high court did not grant bail to the accused for days. When they got the bail, the BJP office honoured these goondas," said AAP leader Atishi at a press conference. The accused, who staged a protest and vandalised the residence of the Chief Minister, had approached the high court after their bail pleas were dismissed by a trial court.The BJP workers were protesting against Arvind Kejriwal's remarks on the controversial film 'The Kashmir Files'. The BJP has been demanding an apology from Mr Kejriwal.

# Pakistan's New PM's Latest Charge At Imran Khan Has A Dubai Link

**Punjab Times News**
**Islamabad, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has accused ousted premier Imran Khan of selling valuable Toshakhana gifts, including diamond jewellery, worth ? 140 million in Dubai, inflicting a loss to the national exchequer. As per the country's law, any gift received from dignitaries of a foreign state must be put in the state depository or the Toshakhana. Shehbaz made the claim during a meeting with senior journalists at the Prime Minister's House, The News International reported on Friday. "I can confirm that Imran Khan took gifts from Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai for ? 140 million (USD 7.6 lakh). Valuable gifts include diamond jewellery, bracelets, watches and sets," he said. Shehbaz said that he also got a watch once which he had deposited in the Toshakhana. "I don't need to hide anything," the newly-elected premier said. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government led by Khan had been reluctant to share details about gifts retained from Toshakhana.

An inquiry has been initiated against Khan by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for selling a precious necklace from Toshakhana, inflicting a loss to the national exchequer. The necklace was sold to a jeweller in Lahore through Zulfi Bukhari, former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development for Rs. 180 million, while only a fraction of that amount was paid to Toshakhana, the report said.

In response to the allegations, Bukhari said that there was no truth in reports about the selling of a necklace.

Talking to Geo News, he said that there never had been any talk about the necklace and the allegations were ill-founded and baseless.

# Woman burnt to death over insurance money in Greater Noida

**Punjab Times News**
**Noida, April 15**

A partially burnt body of a 55-year-old woman was found in her house in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Friday, with the police suspecting the role of her daughter and son-in-law in the case, officials here said.

The woman's son has alleged that his sister and brother-in-law had been harassing their mother ever since she got Rs 15 lakh from an insurance policy after the death of their father, said a senior police officer. "Birma Devi lived in Dankaur town, under Dankaur police station limits. Her partially burnt body was found in the kitchen of her house this morning.

# Block Health Melas to be organised in Punjab from April 18: Dr. Vijay Singla

**Jaspal Arora**
**Chandigarh, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

The Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Vijay Singla today announced holding of Health Melas in the state from April 18 as the state has a dual burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases and many of these diseases can be prevented by early diagnosis, providing health education, timely referral and management. Besides, lack of awareness and poor health seeking behaviour have been found to be the major underlying causes of many diseases, said Dr. Singla.

While informing about organising of these Health Melas, he further stated that early diagnosis and prevention can significantly reduce the rate of morbidity and preventable mortality. The melas would be held at the block level where information on various diseases and their preventive measures will be provided, along with other healthcare services.

Divulging more, the Health Minister said that these

**Stresses on to increase awareness for prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases**

Melas will prove to be important for creating awareness about different schemes and programs of the Government, and not just of the Health & Family Welfare, as many other departments of the government such as Department of Food and supplies, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Department of AYUSH, Department of School Education, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Information and Public Relations, Department of Panchayati Raj Institution & Urban Development will participate in these melas.

The Cabinet Minister stressed on the need to increase health awareness amongst the populace for prevention of various communicable and non-communicable diseases and these melas will motivate beneficiaries through innovative mass media and mid-media activities to make positive health behaviour changes.

These melas will also help in informing people about the various health programs being executed by the government and various facilities such as laboratory services, consultation, medicine and treatment, referral etc. will be available at one location, added the Principal Secretary.

# Popular Front of India activist hacked to death in front of father

**Punjab Times News**
**Palakkad (Kerala), April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

A political killing rocked Kerala on the day of Vishu as a local leader of the Popular Front of India (PFI), an Islamist outfit, was allegedly hacked to death in front of his father in Palakkad district on Friday. Subair, 43, was allegedly hacked to death at Elappully in the district on Friday afternoon, police said. He was rushed to the hospital by the locals immediately after the incident but could not be saved. PFI's president of the Para area committee, Subair, was allegedly hit by a car while on a bike with his father and attacked using sharp-edged weapons. Subair's father, who allegedly suffered injuries after falling from the bike, has been admitted to a hospital, police said.

The incident occurred when they were returning home after offering prayers in a nearby mosque.

After reviewing the situation with top police officials of the district, Palakkad SP R Viswanadh said Subair's father has given a statement regarding the RSS enmity with his son.

He said alerts have been sounded in the district to prevent any retaliatory attacks following the killing of the PFI activist. Security has been tightened to prevent the occurrence of untoward incidents.

# One board exam pattern or split terms: CBSE yet to decide for class 10, 12 exams for 2022-23 session

**Jaspal Arora**
**New Delhi, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

The Central Board of Secondary Education is yet to decide whether the 2022-23 academic session will remain split into two terms for class 10 and 12 or it will revert to the single board exam pattern, officials said on Friday.

Bifurcating the academic session, holding two term-end exams and rationalising the syllabus were part of the special assessment scheme for Class 10 and 12 board examinations in 2021-22 announced by the CBSE as a "one time measure" in view of the Covid pandemic. However, whether or not the same system will continue for the new academic session or not, is yet to be decided.

"The decision to conduct the board exams in two terms was taken in view of the unprecedented situation posed by the pandemic where for the 2020-21 academic session, the students had to be assessed using an alternate assessment scheme as no board exams could be conducted. The move was announced as a onetime measure," a senior board official said.

"The decision about whether it will be extended to the new academic session or not will be taken in due course of time," he added.

Under the split term system, the first term board examination was held in December last year and the second term board examination is scheduled to start from April 26.

The rising cases of Covid have sparked concerns of possible school closures yet again even as experts have warned against the long term learning losses caused by prolonged closure.

Several schools in Delhi and NCR have started closing either a specific class or wing wherever the students or staff have been found infected with Covid-19.

# Ensure clean environment, basic amenities for visitors at police stations: UP CM to officials

**Punjab Times News**
**Lucknow, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure a clean environment and basic amenities for people visiting police stations across the state, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

He also instructed officials to strengthen law and order in the state and ensure good governance.

According to the statement, Adityanath said there should be arrangements for sitting, access to clean drinking water and toilets in every police station so that people do not face any inconvenience.The chief minister also reviewed the efforts made in this direction by Station House Officer (SHO) of Rajghat Police Station in Gorakhpur, Randhir Kumar Mishra.Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Avneesh Kumar Awasthi said the SHO along with other staff have taken special interest in the renovation of the police station. The SHO along with his team established a help desk and renovated parts of the police station.

# BJP copying Delhi model of governance in Himachal: Arvind Kejriwal

**Punjab Times News**
**Shimla, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accused the Jai Ram Government of trying to ape him in announcing major sops to the people on the occasion of 75th Himachal Day.

Kejriwal, while accusing the BJP regime of trying to copy his Delhi model of governance, demanded that all announcements made by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur should be extended to all BJP-ruled states, else people will consider them to be mere election gimmicks.

"If you will not extend these announcements to all other BJP-ruled states, then people will treat these sops as election gimmick, announced fearing the AAP," he said, adding that people will treat these announcements as mere election stunt, which will be taken back after the election. Kejriwal was reacting to the mega announcements made by Jai Ram Thakur on the occasion of Himachal Day at Chamba today. The CM said that women would get 50 per cent discount on travelling in state transport buses, no water bills for people in rural areas and zero bill for those consuming up to 125 units of power. Both AAP and BJP have been hitting out at each other ever since AAP tried to make inroads into Himachal politics by holding a roadshow of Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann at Mandi, the home turf of CM Jai Ram, on April 6. AAP has now announced to hold a show of strength in Kangra, the biggest and politically most significant district, on April 23. While Kejriwal and Mann claimed that their fight was only with BJP as Congress was nowhere in the contest, the saffron party hit back by effecting some major defections from AAP within a week of the Mandi rally. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur made the Himachal AAP president and state organisational secretary join BJP in Delhi.

# Use Loudspeakers To Discuss Price Rise: Aaditya Thackeray

**Punjab Times News**
**Mumbai, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

Politics over Hanuman Chalisa heated up in Maharashtra on Friday with state minister Aaditya Thackeray saying loudspeakers should be used to create awareness among people about reasons behind rising prices of essential items, while independent MLA Ravi Rana asked Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to recite the devotional hymns at his residence on Saturday.

It all started when MNS president Raj Thackeray raised the issue of high-decibel loudspeakers atop mosques. Raj Thackeray has demanded removal of loudspeakers atop mosques before May 3 and warned the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government that MNS workers will play Hanuman Chalisa, a collection of devotional hymns dedicated to Lord Hanuman, in front of mosques if his demand was not met by the deadline.

Reacting to the Hanuman Chalisa recital issue, minister and Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray avoided a direct reply and said issues like price rise should be discussed on loudspeakers.

# IAF pays tributes to Marshal Arjan Singh

**Arjan Singh had successfully led a young IAF during the 1965 Indo-Pak War**

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi, April 15**

PunjabTimes Special

The Indian Air Force on Friday paid glowing tributes to the legendary air warrior late Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh on his 103rd birth anniversary.

"On this day, we recall the contribution made by the Marshal to the nation and Indian Air Force," the IAF said. An icon of India's military history, he had successfully led a young IAF during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. The only officer to attain the highest post of Marshal of the Air Force equivalent to the Army's five-star field marshal, Singh was a fearless and exceptional pilot who had flown more than 60 different types of aircraft. Singh passed away on September 16, 2017, at the age of 98. He had played a major role in transforming the IAF into one of the most potent air forces globally and the fourth biggest in the world. Singh was honoured with the rank of Marshal on Republic Day in 2002. Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw and K M Cariappa were the only two army generals honoured with the rank of field marshal. On August 1, 1964, Singh took over as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) in the rank of Air Marshal at the age of 44.

Singh was born on April 15, 1919 in Lyallpur (now Faisalabad in Pakistan).

"A testing time for the nation came in September 1965 when Pakistan launched Operation Grand Slam, in which an armoured thrust targeted the vital town of Akhnur," the IAF recalled in a statement. "When summoned to the Defence Minister's office with a request for air support and asked how quickly the IAF will be ready for operations, with his characteristic nonchalance, '...in an hour' was the reply," it said. "And truly, the Indian Air Force struck the Pakistani offensive in an hour, gained air superiority over Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and helped Indian Army score strategic victories," it added.

# LPU organized Poetic Orations for Baisakhi Celebrations

**Dev Singh Mann**
**Sanaur , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

The Division of Arts and Culture at Lovely Professional University organized a one-day 'Kavi Sammelan'- Kavita ke Rang, Baisakhi kei Sang' to celebrate the famous Baisakhi Festival of the Punjab state. The verses mainly highlighted the need for universal brotherhood, peace, humanity, friendliness and mutual understanding. Five eminent poets from various parts of the country shared together the poetic-dais with their unique talent at Shanti Devi Mittal Auditorium of the university. The poetic stage was graced by world-renowned poets- Dr Shyam Vashishtha (Writer & Poet), Vibhor Chaudhary (Standup Comedian & TV Artist), Sudeep Bhola (International Poet), Varun Anand (International Gazalist) and Dheerendra Singh (National Poet & Debater). Hailing from Bhiwani( Haryana), Prof Dr Vashishtha highlighted the immense need of mutual love in the existing society. His key-liner "Teri Nafrat Nahin Rukti; Main Apna Pyar Kyun Rokun (Your hatred does not stop, why should I stop my love)", explains the same spirit. On this eve, his fourth book "Samay Ki Taal Per (On the Tunes of Times) was also launched." LPU Pro Chancellor Mrs Rashmi Mittal and Director General Er H R Singla unveiled the cover of the book during the launching ceremony. Prof Dr Vashishtha orated out the four key lines of the book as: "Kisliye Hanste ho mere haal per, Nachte haen Sab Smay kee taal per; Aap ne to vo ped bhi chhode nahin, Pakshi kitne hee baithe the jiski daal per"- (Why do you laugh at my condition, All dance on the tunes of the times; You didn't leave even that tree, many birds were perching where." Dheerendra Singh of LPU had initiated the programme with patriotic fervour and saluted the brave soldiers and martyrs through his emotive lines. Vibhor Chaudhary of Uttar Pradesh made the students laugh through his simple orations favouring the youth & its related episodes. He is one of the best stand-up comedians of today's generation. Sudeep Bhola of Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) sang about the glory of India and upheld its culture. Similarly, young Urdu poet Varun Anand of Ludhiana (Punjab) attracted the audience with his patriotic couplets. During the event, spectacular performances were also showcased by Shivaji University Kolhapur and LPU students under the program "Namaste Punjab Cultural Exchange Programme 2022 held at LPU."

# Prof. Rajdeep Singh Dhaliwal was Unanimously Elected as President of Khalsa College Patiala Teaching Union

**Punjab Times News**
**Patiala , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

The newly elected President of the Teaching Union of Khalsa College, Prof. Rajdeep Singh Dhaliwal and office bearers.

Prof. Rajdeep Singh Dhaliwal was unanimously elected as President of Khalsa College, Patiala Teaching Union at the general meeting of union members held at Bhai Gurdas Hall of College. Dr. Vikram Gupta while appreciating the contribution made by Prof. Dhaliwal for the struggle for the rights of teachers, a resolution was tabled to elect him as President. The house gave Prof. Dhaliwal all rights to select his team. Dr. Ratanpal Singh Randhawa, Dr. Poonamdeep Singh, Dr. Bharat Goyal and Prof. Baldev Singh were unanimously nominated as Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Joint Secretary of the unit. Prof. Dhaliwal thanked the office bearers of the previous unit of the union and all the teachers of the college for their contribution during the struggles, protests and court arrests against the anti-teacher policies of the previous Congress Government. Prof. Dhaliwal and other office bearers also assured that teachers would continue to work for their interests in future. He added that all the instructions given by the Central Committee of PCCTU will be followed. On this occasion President of Punjab and Chandigarh College Teachers Union, Dr. Vinay Sofat, General Secretary, Dr. Sukhdev Singh Randhawa, PCCTU Patiala-Fatehgarh Sahib District Council President, Dr. Bikramjit Singh Sandhu, President, Teaching Union, Multani Mall Modi College, Dr. Sumit Kumar, President, Teaching Union, Mata Gujri College, Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, Dr. Rashid and Shamsher Singh, President, Non-Teaching Union, Khalsa College, Patiala congratulated Prof. Dhaliwal on this occasion.

# Bihar's Push for UNESCO World Heritage Tag for This 2,500-Year-Old Wall

**Punjab Times News**
**Patna , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

Bihar government has sent a fresh proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to get Cyclopean wall, a more than 2,500 years old structure at Rajgir, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Cyclopean Wall of Rajgir is a 40 km long wall of stone which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir to protect it from external enemies and invaders, built before 3rd century BC. We are leaving no stone unturned to get Cyclopean wall listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. We have submitted a fresh proposal highlighting the historical significance and features of the Cyclopean Wall to the ASI following their request", Additional Secretary cum Director (Archaeology), of Bihar's Art, Culture and Youth department, Deepak Anand told said. Mr Anand said the wall is among the oldest examples of cyclopean masonry in the world and it must be listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also said on several occasions that Cyclopean wall must be listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. "Earlier too we had sent proposal seeking UNESCO World Heritage site tag to Cyclopean wall. But it was not accepted. This time we are confident that this wall will get UNESCO tag. We are in constant touch with the authorities concerned in this regard", said Anand. The 40-km long Cyclopean Wall of Rajgir is believed to have been built in the pre-Mauryan era, using massive undressed stones. It is believed that the Cyclopean Wall at Rajgir is similar to "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" that runs through Germany, UK and Northern Ireland, which was included on UNESCO's world heritage list in 1987. Bihar is the home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and quite a few sites on the tentative list Nalanda University is one of the two UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bihar and was listed in 2002. It is listed as the Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India list. Another ancient monument in the state that has been included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list, is Mahabodhi temple of Bodhygaya. PTI PKD JRC JRC

# Havan Pooja in Kirpal Sagar Academy

**Punjab Times News**
**Rahon , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

Kirpal Sagar Academy, Nawanshahr organized a pious 'Havan Pooja' in the starting of session 2022-2023, to seek the blessings of the Almighty. The whole ceremony was performed with the divine fervour and spirituality. The ambience of school was charged with Havan. The soul striving 'Bhajans' were presented by teachers of music department . Honourable Chairman of Kirpal Sagar Academy, Dr. Karamjit Singh, Dr. Agarwal, Principal Kirpal Sagar Academy Mr. Gurjeet Singh, Principal K. H Public school Ms. Harshinder Kaur, Principal B. Ed college Ms. Baltinder Kaur, staff members and students prayed the Almighty for progressive session in all respect. 'Aahutis' were put in the'Havan Kund' while chanting the sacred mantras. The programme ended with 'Puran Aahuti' and prasad was also distributed.

# "Will Transform Way Mumbai Travels": Aaditya Thackeray on New Road Plan

**Punjab Times News**
**Mumbai , April 15**

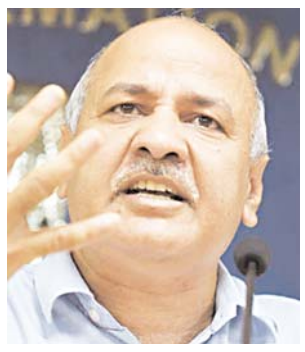
punjab times NEWS

Maharashtra Tourism and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray yesterday laid the foundation for the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project at the Goregaon end here and said that this step will entirely transform the way in which Mumbai travels. Mr Thackeray said, "Following the 'Bhoomi-Poojan' of the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (flyover) on the Mulund end last month, today the foundation has been laid for the flyover at the Goregaon end. The GMLR is going to transform the way Mumbai travels entirely, and we are committed to its on-time completion." Following the bhumipujan of the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (flyover) on the Mulund end last month, today laid the foundation for the flyover at the Goregaon end. The GMLR is going to transform the way Mumbai travels entirely, and we are committed to its on-time completion The 12.2-kilometre link road aims to eastern and western suburbs of Mumbai and provide transport options to people. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has undertaken the ambitious project connecting two important suburbs of Goregaon and Mulund. The 'Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) Project will be the fourth link road connecting the eastern and western parts of the Mumbai suburbs. According to the BMC, the junction consists of 5 x 5 lanes, and the construction of this junction includes the construction of a 4.7-km, 13-metre diameter double tunnel under Sanjay Gandhi National Park and a 1.60-km belt tunnel passing through Dadasaheb Phalke, Chitranagari and their access roads. These tunnels are of 3 x 3 lanes and the work is in progress to widen the 2.8 km road from Oberoi Mall to Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari (Film City) on the Goregaon side of the link road. 2.7 km road widening from Tansa Pipeline on the Mulund side to East Expressway junction and work on Nahur railway flyover. All these works are expected to be completed in the year 2022-23," the municipal corporation said. Elaborating further on the project, the BMC said that the 120-metre-long bridge at Dr Hedgewar Chowk is in the form of 'Cable Stay' and a 'GMLR' flyover is proposed at the lower level of 'Mumbai Metro-4' which is the first level. "The contract cost of these two flyovers is Rs 666.06 crores and the working period is 36 months. Both the bridges will be constructed using a segmental box girder of precast reinforced concrete on one pillar," it added.

# What Manish Sisodia Said on Covid Guidelines in Delhi Schools Amid Surge

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi , April 15**

punjab times NEWS



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said a specific wing in schools or classrooms where a COVID-19 case has been detected should be closed temporarily and clarified that the entire school should only be closed in specific cases.
The comments by Mr Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister, came against the backdrop of rising cases of COVID-19 among school children and staff members. A meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has been called on April 20 to review the situation in the national capital. "We haven't asked them to close schools. Our guidelines say that only a specific wing or classroom where someone was found COVID positive should be temporarily closed. Schools can take a decision to close the entire premises in specific cases where an infected child or staff has been through multiple areas of the school…we have made it decentralised," Mr Sisodia said in response to a question during a press conference. The Directorate of Education (DoE) issued a fresh advisory for schools in the national capital on April 13, directing them to close the entire premises or specific wings temporarily if any student or staff tests positive for COVID-19. The department also said students and staff must wear masks and maintain social distancing to the extent possible. We will review the COVID situation in our next DDMA meeting on April 20. In the meeting, there are experts who are keeping an eye on new variants and they present their observations and analysis in the context of Delhi, which helps us to make informed decision," Mr Sisodia said. Delhi reported 325 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, while the positivity rate stood at 2.39 per cent, according to data shared by the city's health department. Reports of infections from schools have sparked concerns, weeks after they opened for completely offline classes following a two-year gap due to the pandemic.

# Free Medical Camp Organized at Satkartar Hospital, Fatehabad

**Kulwinder Singh Panesar**
**Patti , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

Dr. Navtej Singh Pawar, MD of Satkartar Hospital on Sunday 17.4.22 at 9 am to 2 pm keeping in view the health facilities of the people at City Fatehabad of Khadur Sahib Assembly constituency. A free medical camp is being set up in which patients will be checked up by doctors specializing in medicine, surgery, gynecology, diabetes, cardiology, psychiatry, free tests and medicines will be given as required! Patients undergoing the operations will be treated by fitting them with modern technology through special machines

# In Turf War With Akhilesh Yadav, A Fresh Move By Uncle Shivpal Yadav

**Punjab Times News**
**Lucknow , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

The turf war between Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Yadav that has intensified after the BJP's big Uttar Pradesh state election win, appears to have taken a new turn with all units - national and regional - of the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party, the outfit headed by Shivpal, being dissolved today. The dissolution order was passed by Aditya Yadav, Shivpal's son and the national general secretary of the party. This latest development has once against intensified speculation that Shivpal Yadav, the younger brother of Akhilesh Yadav's father and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, may join hands with the BJP. However, neither Shivpal nor his party have reacted to these reports. On Thursday, Mr Yadav appeared to back the idea for a Uniform Civil Code across the country, an issue identified with the politics of the BJP. The remarks were made at a party function to mark Ambedkar Jayanti in Lucknow. "Ambedkar had raised the issue in the constituent assembly, Lohia ji (socialist leader Dr Ram Manohar Lohia) had raised the issue too, and on his (Ambedkar's) Jayanti we are raising our voice for a uniform civil code. We are ready to agitate for it and raise or voice about it," Shivpal Yadav said at the function. After years of bickering between Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal that started before the 2017 Uttar Pradesh assembly election as the former chief minister tried to consolidate his hold over the Samajwadi Party, eventually leading to his uncle's exit, the two appeared to have made up before the 2022 election. Shivpal Yadav's party formed an alliance with the Samajwadi Party and he fought the polls from his stronghold Jaswant Nagar on a Samajwadi Party ticket and won. But the "reunion" was short-lived. Days after the Samajwadi Party lost the Uttar Pradesh election, Shivpal Yadav reportedly met with leaders of his Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party and told them: "Be prepared for a big fight . He also met with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, reinforcing speculation that he is on the verge of a switch to the ruling BJP.

# Gurdwara Shatranjsar Sahib Held a Competition for Decorating Turbans and Scarves at Village Bassian

**Bittu Halwara**
**Raikot , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

At Gurdwara Shatranjsar Sahib in nearby village Bassian, the managing committee of Gurdwara Sahib in collaboration with all the residents of the town organized a competition for decorating turbans and scarves dedicated to Sajna Diwas of Khalsa Panth. More than 60 children from the cities participated. In the under 14 turban decorating competitions conducted on this occasion, Paranshu came first, Harkirat Singh second and Gurlal Singh third. Davinder Singh Baghapurana, Jaspreet Singh Rara Sahib and Rohitdeep Singh Talwandi bagged the first, second and third places respectively in the under 15 to 25 years turban competitions. Ranveer Singh came first, Simranjit Kaur Ludhiana came second, Simrat Kaur Sivian came third, Gurjap Singh Bassian came fourth and Amanjot Kaur came fifth. The winning children of various competitions were selected by the managing committee of Gurdwara Shatranjsar Sahib by President Sukhbir Singh, President Mehtab Singh, Kuldeep Singh Treasurer, Jagtar Singh, Secretary Dr. Jarnail Singh Jawandha, Panch Jaswinder Singh Sidhu presented cash prizes and trophies. President Sukhjit Singh said that the purpose of conducting these turban competitions was to make the young generation aware about the importance of turban and to create interest in turban decoration so that our young generation could be connected with the religious heritage of our nation. The role of Joginder Singh Machhike, Prabhpreet Singh, Pardeep Singh Gehlan, Manjit Singh was well played. Judges and associates were honored by the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee with titles and insignia. A large number of sangats including Jasbir Singh, Head Granthi of Gurdwara Shatranjsar Sahib, Bhai Gurjant Singh, Granthi of Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Sukhraj Singh, Satpal Singh Nambardar, Sukhbir Singh Uppal, Manjit Singh Fauji, Prabhpreet Singh were present on the occasion.

# "Copying Kejriwal Model": AAP After Himachal Chief MInister's Free Power, Water Promise

**Punjab Times News**
**New Delhi , April 15**

punjab times NEWS

The AAP Friday alleged the BJP government in Himachal Pradesh is "copying" the Arvind Kejriwal model of governance, soon after Chief Minister Jairam Thakur announced free power and water supply, and a 50 per cent rebate in bus fare for women. Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia said the BJP government's announcements ahead of assembly polls in the state are an attempt to "hoodwink" people, as the BJP has always said it is "completely" against freebies like free electricity. After coming back to power in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP will take back all the announcements that its Chief Minister had made, Mr Sisodia claimed, asking people of the hill state not to "fall in their trap". "Vote for the AAP in elections," he appealed to them. While addressing an event in Chamba earlier in the day, the Himachal Pradesh chief minister announced his government has decided to provide free power up to 125 units and waive water bills in rural areas. He also his government has decided to reduce the bus fare for women by 50 per cent. "What the BJP government has announced today is an attempt to partially copy the Kejriwal model of governance. They have started staging a drama of copying the Kejriwal model of governance in the state with an eye on elections," Mr Sisodia said. He said the BJP and its "friends" are in power in 18 states but they have not thought of providing cheaper electricity in any of these. Everywhere they say electricity should not be free. They make fun of such freebies. They say freebie is anti-national. They even go on to review it at the level of Central government to come out and say that freebie is destroying the country," he charged. And just a few months ahead of the assembly polls in the state, the Himachal government has announced free electricity, water and a bus fare rebate for women because the party is "extremely scared" of Kejriwal and the AAP, Mr Sisodia claimed. "The BJP government is making these announcements fearing its imminent defeat in election," he said.